



SIRENA

by Margaret Ross Tolbert and Stefan Craciun



Sirena lives in the underwater universe of the freshwater springs of North Florida. The mystery of her life underwater is revealed in these photographic, lenticular and painted images. Rarely sighted, when seen, she seems preoccupied with everyday pursuits; reading, dancing, bowling, playing chess. Sometimes we see her in the midst of more fabulous exploits: fleeing with the Trojan candelabra, poised on the abyss before another contest with the unknown, plummeting to the depths of Alexander springs, hovering over the fabled pitcher at the end of her journey. She approaches dark caverns, explores deep and menacing chasms, and swims through the depths of the springs with a mirror blazing with light.

Photographer Stefan Craciun helped in the documentation of Sirena. He portrays Sirena in the following way:

"If someone were to ask me to introduce them to Sirena I would have to say that would be impossible. Sirena has no input from the outside world and can only be observed from a distance. This is the only relationship the viewer can have with Sirena. The most we can be is very fortunate observers because we will seldom meet anyone as spontaneous and imaginative as this particular character. Sirena is so delicate that trying to interact with, influence or take her out of context will destroy her."

cover: *Surface Frequency*, 2008
digital photography, 10 x 8 inches
above: *Sailing to Sanctuary*, 2008
digital photography, 30 x 40 inches



Sirena at the Abyss, oil and inkjet
on canvas, 90 x 40 inches

The energy of the springs and their dynamic nature is concentrated in her character. She is the essence of the fragile springs themselves.

SIRENA has been exhibited in the United States and abroad in exhibits at Edgezones, Miami and Edsvik Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden. Two films and performances about Sirena have been premiered at Edsvik Konsthall in 2008. SIRENA performance documentation and imagery exist in lenticular panels, lenticular panels with light boxes, and inkjet and oil painting on canvas. The lenticular images are generally in a limited edition of five per image.



top: *Off to the Festival*, 2008 inkjet on canvas, 30 x 40 inches
bottom: *Atemporal Suspense*, 2008 component image from lenticular photography, 8 x 10 inches



Springs Castling, 2007 lenticular
and lightbox, 30 x 40 inches